(h) The lay out plan of the grounds is being sent to the University Commission for their approval.

(i) A plan will be placed on the table.

The plan is not a copy of any of the existing hostels. It represents a combination of the good points of several of the existing hostels and an elimination of many of the bad points in them.

Arecanut market at Ottupara.

168. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether there is not an arecanut market at Ottupara near Vadakkancheri conducted by one Mr. Muhamed;

(b) how long he has been conducting that business;

(c) what does the Government get from him and on what conditions is he conducting the market ;

(d) what is the approximate extent of the value of the arecanut that is sold in this market annually ;

(e) whether anyone else is now allowed to carry on the same business in Vadakkancheri or near about on the same day as Mr. Muhamed is allowed to do ;

(f) whether anyone or more persons had been allowed to do the same business on the same day during the last 10 years ;

(g) if the answer to sub-division (e) is in the negative the reason why sanction is withheld ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) Yes.

(b) Since 1063 ; i. e., nearly 43 years.

(c) An annual license fee of Rs. 100. He is allowed to hold the market weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

(d) Not known.

(e) No.

(f) Yes. Some eight years back.

(g) In accordance with the wholesome rule that when markets were held in the same place or in the near vicinity of each other different days should be allotted to each to avoid clash of interests.

Diversion of the Chalakkudi river.

169. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state at what stage the diversion of the Chalakkudi River now stands ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Chalakkudi River Diversion Scheme is meant to irrigate Virippu and Mundakan lands in the Mukundapuram Taluk and also for supplying water to the kole lands.

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Investigation in the connection was undertaken in 1103. It was proposed to construct a diversion weir at a place near Chiklai, above Echipara and in the first stage of its development to run the waters by a channel into the Kurumali river for kole irrigation purposes. The scheme contemplated in the second stage was to construct further distributaries to command the Virippu and Mundakan ayacuts.

A survey was undertaken, the weir site was located and an accurate theodolite survey was completed from weir to the saddle at Edumban-Kavalai, a distance of 6 miles. From this portion to the Kurumali river is easy country and the Survey for the first stage is therefore almost completed.

Survey of the Sandalwood trees in the Forests.

170. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.— Wil the Government be pleased to state :—

whether the Government has made any attempt to make a survey of the Sandalwood trees in the Cochin Forests and the economic possibilities of the same ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—No, because there are no Sandalwood trees of natural growth in the Cochin Forests except a couple of them on the submit of the Kolakkattumudi peak in the Nemmara sub-range.

The Thalikuzhi Coupe contract.

171. Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.— Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) to whom is the Thalikuzhi coupe, Vaniampara range, Trichur Taluk, given on contract for felling trees ;

(2) when was it given ;

(3) what was the quantity estimated for extraction ;

(4) what is the area of the coupe ;

(5) whether there was any time-limit fixed for felling ;

(6) how many extensions were given and on what grounds;

(7) what are the species of timber to be felled under the contract ;

(8) the market rate for each species ;

(9) whether the coupe was given on tender or by private negotiations ;

(10) if it was given by tender, whether there was any higher bidding ;

(11) if so, what is the difference between the highest bidding and the contract rate ?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) Mr. P. S. Krishna Ayyar.

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